

POS

POSTMASTER-GENERAL. *n. f.* He who presides over the posts or letter carriers.

POSTMERIDIAN. *adj.* [*postmeridianus*, Lat.] Being in the afternoon.

Over hasty digestion is the inconvenience of *postmeridian* sleep. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

POSTOFFICE. *n. f.* [*post and office*.] Office where letters are delivered to the post; a posthouse.

If you don't send to me now and then, the *postoffice* will think me of no consequence; for I have no correspondent but you. *Gay to Swift.*

If you are sent to the *postoffice* with a letter, put it in carefully. *Swift.*

TO POSTPONE. *v. a.* [*postpone*, Lat. *postponere*, Fr.]

1. To put off; to delay.

You would *postpone* me to another reign, Till when you are content to be unjust. *Dryden.*

The most trifling amusement is suffered to *postpone* the one thing necessary. *Rogers's Sermons.*

2. To set in value below something else.

All other considerations should give way, and be *postponed* to this. *Locke on Education.*

POSTSCRIPT. *n. f.* [*post and scriptum*, Lat.] The paragraph added to the end of a letter.

I think he prefers the publick good to his private opinion; and therefore is willing his proposals should with freedom be examined: thus I understand his *postscript*. *Locke.*

One, when he wrote a letter, would put that which was most material in the *postscript*. *Bacon's Essays.*

The following letter I shall give my reader at length, without either preface or *postscript*. *Addison's Spectator.*

Your saying that I ought to have writ a *postscript* to Gay's, makes me not content to write less than a whole letter. *Pope.*

TO POSTULATE. *v. a.* [*postulo*, Lat. *postulare*, Fr.] To beg or assume without proof.

They most powerfully magnify God, who, not from *postulated* and precarious inferences, entreat a courteous assent, but from experiments and undeniable effects. *Brown.*

POSTULATE. *n. f.* [*postulatum*, Lat.] Position supposed or assumed without proof.

This we shall induce not from *postulates* and intreated maxims, but from undeniable principles. *Brown.*

Some have cast all their learning into the method of mathematicians, under theorems, problems and *postulates*. *Watts.*

POSTULATION. *n. f.* [*postulatio*, Lat. *postulation*, Fr. from *postulare*.] The act of supposing without proof; gratuitous assumption.

A second *postulation* to elicit my assent, is the veracity of him that reports it. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

POSTULATORY. *adj.* [from *postulare*.]

1. Assuming without proof.

2. Assumed without proof.

Whoever shall peruse the phylognomy of Porta, and strictly observe how vegetable realities are forced into animal representations, may perceive the semblance is but *postulatory*. *Bra.*

POSTURE. *n. f.* [*postura*, Fr. *postura*, Latin.]

1. Place; situation.

Although these studies are not so pleasing as contemplations physical or mathematical, yet they recompense with the excellency of their use in relation to man, and his noblest *posture* and station in this world, a state of regulated society. *Hale.*

According to the *posture* of our affairs in the last campaign, this prince could have turned the balance on either side. *Addison.*

2. Voluntary collocation of the parts of the body with respect to each other.

He starts,

Then lays his finger on his temple; straight Springs into fast gait; then stops again,

Strikes his breast hard, and then anon he casts His eyes against the moon, in most strange *postures*. *Shak.*

Where there are affections of reverence, there will be *postures* of reverence. *South's Sermons.*

The *posture* of a poetick figure is the description of his heroes in the performance of such or such an action. *Dryden.*

In the meanest marble statue, one sees the faces, *postures*, airs and drefs of those that lived so many ages before us. *Addison.*

3. State; disposition.

The lord Hopton left Arundel-castle, before he had put it into the good *posture* he intended. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

I am at the same point and *posture* I was, when they forced me to leave Whitehall. *King Charles.*

In this abject *posture* have ye sworn To adore the conqueror. *Milton.*

The several *postures* of his devout soul in all conditions of life, are displayed with great simplicity. *Atterbury.*

TO POSTURE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To put in any particular place or disposition.

The gillfins are to *posture*, as to move from back to belly and e contra. *Grew.*

POSTULATUM. *n. f.* [Latin.] Position assumed without proof.

Calumnies often refuted, are the *postulatum* of scriblers, upon which they proceed as upon first principles. *Addison.*

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POSTUREMASTER. *n. f.* [*posture and master*.] One who teaches or practices artificial contortions of the body.

When the students have accomplished themselves in this part, they are to be delivered into the hands of a kind of *posturemaster*. *Spectator, No 305.*

POT. *n. f.* [contracted from *potest*.]

1. A motto on a ring.

A paltry ring, That she did give me, whole *pot* was, Like cutler's poetry;

Love me and leave me not. *Shakespeare, Merch. of Venice.*

You have chosen a very short text to enlarge upon; I should as soon expect to see a critique on the *pot* of a ring, as on the inscription of a medal. *Addison.*

2. A bunch of flowers. Of unknown derivation.

With store of vermeil roses, To deck their bridegroom's *pot*.

We make a difference between suffering thistles to grow among us, and wearing them for *pot*s. *Swift.*

POT. *n. f.* [*pot*, Fr. in all the senses, and Dutch; *potte*, Italian.]

1. A vessel in which meat is boiled on the fire.

Toad that under the cold stone Swelter'd, venom sleeping got;

Boil thou first i'th' charmed *pot*. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*

Gigantick hinds, as soon as work was done, To their huge *pot*s of boiling pulse would run,

Fell to with eager joy. *Dryden.*

2. Vessel to hold liquors.

The woman left her water *pot*, and went her way. *John.*

3. Vessel made of earth.

Whenever potters meet with any chalk or marl mixed with their clay, though it will with the clay hold burning, yet whenever any water comes near any such *pot*s after they are burnt, both the chalk and marl will slack and spoil their ware. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

4. A small cup.

But that I think his father loves him not, I'd have him poison'd with a *pot* of ale.

Suppose your eyes sent equal rays, Upon two distant *pot*s of ale,

Not knowing which was mild or stale. *Prior.*

A soldier drinks his *pot*, and then offers payment. *Swift.*

5. To go to POT. To be destroyed or devoured. A low phrase.

The sheep went first to *pot*, the goats next, and after them the oxen, and all little enough to keep life together. *L'Estr.*

John's ready money went into the lawyers pockets; then John began to borrow money upon the bank stock, now and then a farm went to *pot*. *Arbutnot's Hist. of J. Bull.*

TO POT. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To preserve seasoned in pots.

Potted fowl and fish come in so fast, That ere the first is out, the second stinks,

And mouldy mother gathers on the brinks. *Dryden.*

2. To inclose in pots of earth.

Pot them in natural, not forced earth; a layer of rich mould beneath, and about this natural earth to nourish the fibres, but not so as to touch the bulbs. *Boehn.*

Acorns, mast and other feeds may be kept well, by being barrelled or *potted* up with moist sand. *Mortimer.*

POTABLE. *adj.* [*potabilis*, Fr. *potabilis*, Lat.] Such as may be drank; drinkable.

Thou best of gold are worst of gold, Other less fine in carat, is more precious,

Preserving life in medicine *potable*. *Shakespeare.*

Dig a pit upon the sea shore, somewhat above the high water mark, and sink it as deep as the low water mark; and as the tide cometh in, it will fill with water fresh and *potable*. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

Rivers run *potable* gold. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

The said *potable* gold should be endued with a capacity of being agglutinated and assimilated to the innate heat. *Harvey.*

Where solar beams Parch thirsty human veins, the damask'd meads Unforc'd display ten thousand painted flow'rs Useful in *potables*. *Philips.*

POTABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *potabilis*.] Drinkableness.

POTAGER. *n. f.* [from *potage*.] A porringer.

An Indian dish or *potager*, made of the bark of a tree, with the sides and rim sewed together after the manner of twiggen-work. *Grew's Museum.*

POTARCO. *n. f.* A West Indian pickle.

What lord of old would bid his cook prepare Mangos, *potarco*, champignons, caviare. *King.*

POTASH. *n. f.* [*potasse*, Fr.]

Potash, in general, is an impure fixed alkaline salt, made by burning from vegetables: we have five kinds of this salt now in use; 1. The German *potash*, made from burnt wood, and commonly sold under the name of pearlashes. 2. The Spanish called *barilla*, made by burning a species of kali, a plant which the Spaniards sow in the fields as we do corn.

3. The home-made *potash*, made from fern and other useless plants,

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plants, collected in large quantities and burnt. 4. The Swedish, and 5. Russian kinds, with a volatile acid matter combined with them; but the Russian is stronger than the Swedish, which is made of decayed wood only: *potash* is of great use to the manufacturers of soap and glass, to bleachers and to dyers; it is also an ingredient in some medicinal compositions, but the Russian *potash* is greatly preferable to all the other kinds. *Hill's Materia Medica.*

Chefhire rock-salt, with a little nitre, allum and *potash*, is the common flux used for the running of the plate-glass. *Woodward on Potash.*

POTATION. *n. f.* [*potatio*, Lat.] Drinking bout; draught.

Whom love hath turned almost the wrong side out To Desdemona, hath to night carous'd

Potations pottle deep. *Shakespeare, Othello.*

If I had a thousand sons, the first human principle I would teach them, should be to forswear thin *potations*, and to addict themselves to sack. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*

POTATO. *n. f.* [I suppose an American word.] An esculent root.

The red and white *potatoes* are the most common esculent roots now in use, and were originally brought from Virginia into Europe. *Miller.*

On choicest melons and sweet grapes they dine, And with *potatoes* fast their wanton wine. *Waller.*

The families of farmers live in filth and nastiness upon butter-milk and *potatoes*. *Swift.*

Leek to the Welch, to Dutchmen butter's dear, Of Irish swains *potatoes* is the cheer;

Oats for their flocks the Scottish shepherds grind, Sweet turnips are the food of Blouzelind;

While the loves turnips, butter I'll despise, Nor leeks, nor oatmeal, nor *potatoes* prize. *Gay.*

POTBELLED. *adj.* [*pot and belly*.] Having a swollen paunch.

POTBELLY. *n. f.* [*pot and belly*.] A swelling paunch.

He will find himself a forked shadling animal and a *pot-belly*. *Arbutnot and Pope.*

TO POTCH. *v. a.* [*potcher*, Fr. to thrust out the eyes as with the thumb.]

1. To thrust; to push.

Where I thought to crush him in an equal force, True sword to sword; I'll *potch* at him some way,

Or wrath or craft may get him. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*

2. [*Potcher*, Fr.] To poach; to boil slightly.

In great wounds, it is necessary to observe a spare diet, as panadoes or a *potched* egg; this much availing to prevent inflammation. *Wise's Surgery.*

POTCOMPANION. *n. f.* A fellow drinker; a good fellow at carousals.

POTENCY. *n. f.* [*potentia*, Lat.]

1. Power; influence.

Now arriving At place of *potency* and fway o'th' state, If he should still malignantly remain

Faith foe to the plebeians, your voices might Be curses to yourselves. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*

I would I had your *potency*. *Shakespeare.*

Thou hast fought to make us break our vow, To come betwixt our sentence and our power,

Which nor our nature nor our place can bear, Our *potency* make good. *Shakespeare.*

By what name shall we call such an one, as exceedeth God in *potency*. *Raleigh's History of the World.*

2. Efficacy; strength.

Use can matter the devil, or throw him out With wondrous *potency*. *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*

POTENT. *adj.* [*potens*, Latin.]

1. Powerful; forcible; strong; efficacious.

There is nothing more contagious than some kinds of harmony; than some nothing more strong and *potent* unto good. *Hooker.*

Why stand these royal fronts amazed thus? Cry havoc, kings; back to the stained field, You equal *potents*, fiery kindled spirits!

I do believe, Induc'd by *potent* circumstances, that You are mine enemy. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*

Here's another More *potent* than the first. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

One would wonder how, from so differing premises, they should infer the same conclusion, were it not that the conspiracy of interest were too *potent* for the diversity of judgment. *Decay of Piety.*

When by command Moses once more his *potent* rod extends Over the sea; the sea his rod obeys. *Milton.*

Verbes are the *potent* charms we use, Heroick thoughts and virtue to insule. *Waller.*

The magistrat cannot urge obedience upon such *potent* grounds, as the minister can urge disobedience. *South.*

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How the effluvia of a magnet can be so rare and subtle, as to pass through a plate of glass without any resistance or diminution of their force, and yet so *potent* as to turn a magnetic needle through the glass. *Newton's Opticks.*

The chemical preparations are more vigorous and *potent* in their effects than the galenicall. *Baker.*

Cyclop, since human flesh has been thy feast, Now drain this goblet *potent* to digest. *Pope.*

2. Having great authority or dominion: as, *potent monarchs*.

POTENTATE. *n. f.* [*potentat*, Fr.] Monarch; prince; sovereign.

This gentleman is come to me, With commendations from great *potentates*; Kings and mightiest *potentates* must die.

Their defences are but compliments; To dally with confining *potentates*. *Shakespeare.*

All obey'd the superior voice Of their great *potentate*; for great indeed His name, and high was his degree in heav'n. *Shakespeare.*

Exalting him not only above earthly princes and *potentates*, but above the highest of the celestial hierarchy. *Milton.*

Each *potentate*, as wary fear, or strength, Or emulation urg'd, his neighbour's bounds Invades. *Boyle.*

POTENTIAL. *adj.* [*potenciel*, Fr. *potencialis*, Latin.]

1. Existing in possibility, not in act.

This *potential* and imaginary materia prima cannot exist without form. *Raleigh's Hist. of the World.*

2. Having the effect without the external actual property.

The magnifico is much belov'd, And hath in his effect a voice *potential*, As double as the duke's. *Shakespeare, Othello.*

Ice doth not only submit unto actual heat, but indureth not the *potential* calidity of many waters. *Brown.*

3. Efficacious; powerful.

Thou must make a dullard of the world, If they not thought the profits of my death Were very pregnant and *potential* spurs To make thee seek it. *Shakespeare.*

4. In grammar, *potential* is a mood denoting the possibility of doing any action.

POTENTIALITY. *n. f.* [from *potential*.] Possibility; not actuality.

Manna represented to every man the taste himself did like, but it had in its own *potentiality* all those tastes and dispositions eminently. *Taylor's Worthy Communicant.*

God is an eternal substance and act, without *potentiality* and matter, the principle of motion, the cause of nature. *Still.*

The true notion of a soul's eternity is this, that the future moments of its duration can never be all past and present; but still there will be a futurity and *potentiality* of more for ever and ever. *Bentley's Sermons.*

POTENTIALLY. *adv.* [from *potential*.]

1. In power or possibility; not in act or positively.

This duration of human souls is only *potentially* infinite; for their eternity consists only in an endless capacity of continuance without ever ceasing to be in a boundless futurity, that can never be exhausted, or all of it be past or present; but their duration can never be positively and actually eternal, because it is most manifest, that no moment can ever be assigned, wherein it shall be true, that such a soul hath then actually sustained an infinite duration. *Bentley.*

2. In efficacy; not in actuality.

They should tell us, whether only that be taken out of scripture which is actually and particularly there set down, or else that also which the general principles and rules of scripture *potentially* contain. *Hooker, b. iii.*

Blackness is produced upon the blade of a knife that has cut four apples, if the juice, though both actually and *potentially* cold, be not quickly wiped off. *Boyle on Colours.*

POTENTLY. *adv.* [from *potent*.] Powerfully; forcibly.

You're *potently* oppos'd; and with a malice Of as great force. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*

Metals are hardened by often heating and quenching; for cold worketh most *potently* upon heat precedent. *Bacon.*

Oil of vitriol, though a *potently* acid menstruum, will yet precipitate many bodies mineral, and others dissolved not only in aquafortis, but in spirit of vinegar. *Boyle.*

POTENTNESS. *n. f.* [from *potent*.] Powerfulness; might; power.

POTGUN. *n. f.* [by mistake or corruption used for *potgun*.] A gun which makes a small smart noise.

An author, thus who pants for fame, Begins the world with fear and shame;

When first in print, you see him dread Each *potgun* level'd at his head. *Swift's Miscel.*

POTHA'NGER. *n. f.* [*pot and hunger*.] Hook or branch on which the pot is hung over the fire.

POTHECARY. *n. f.* [contracted by pronunciation and poetical convenience from *apothecary*; from *apotheca*, Lat.] One who compounds and sells phyllick.